The Adventures of Isabel

By Ogden Nash

Isabel met an enormous bear,  
Isabel, Isabel, didn't care;  
The bear was hungry, the bear was ravenous,  
The bear's big mouth was cruel and cavernous.  
The bear said, Isabel, glad to meet you,  
How do, Isabel, now I'll eat you!  
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry.  
Isabel didn't scream or scurry.  
She washed her hands and she straightened her hair up,  
Then Isabel quietly ate the bear up.  
Once in a night as black as pitch  
Isabel met a wicked old witch.  
the witch's face was cross and wrinkled,  
The witch's gums with teeth were sprinkled.  
Ho, ho, Isabel! the old witch crowed,  
I'll turn you into an ugly toad!  
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,  
Isabel didn't scream or scurry,  
She showed no rage and she showed no rancor,  
But she turned the witch into milk and drank her.  
Isabel met a hideous giant,  
Isabel continued self reliant.  
The giant was hairy, the giant was horrid,  
He had one eye in the middle of his forehead.  
Good morning, Isabel, the giant said,  
I'll grind your bones to make my bread.  
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,  
Isabel didn't scream or scurry.  
She nibbled the zwieback that she always fed off,  
And when it was gone, she cut the giant's head off.  
Isabel met a troublesome doctor,  
He punched and he poked till he really shocked her.  
The doctor's talk was of coughs and chills  
And the doctor's satchel bulged with pills.  
The doctor said unto Isabel,  
Swallow this, it will make you well.  
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,  
Isabel didn't scream or scurry.  
She took those pills from the pill concocter,  
And Isabel calmly cured the doctor.

1. Part A

What does ravenous mean as it is used in line 3?

* terrifying
* very large
* hungry
* dreamily

Part B

Which line from the text supports your answer to part A?

* Isabel met an enormous bear
* The bear was hungry
* The bear's big mouth
* How do, Isabel, now I'll eat you!

1. Part A

Which character trait best describes Isobel?

* Witty
* Ignorant
* Dreamy
* Confident

Part B

Which lines from the poem support you answer to Part A?

* Isabel didn't scream or scurry
* She washed her hands and she straightened her hair up,
* Isabel continued self reliant.
* Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry
* Swallow this, it will make you well
* I'll grind your bones to make my bread
* She showed no rage and she showed no rancor

1. Part A

What is zwieback as it is used in line 29?

* A sharp sword
* Something to eat
* Some medicine
* A giant

Part B

Which word from the text supports your answer to part A?

* troublesome
* nibbled
* grind
* pills

Constructed Response

1. Which of the following represents the overall message in this poem?

* Life is sometimes hard, but you will make it if you face challenges head-on.
* Witches and Giants are not real; there is no reason to be afraid of them.
* Eat healthy meals, even if your dinner is an enormous bear.
* Always take your medicine when you are sick.

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Explain your choice with evidence from the text.